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Peres: No deadline on Lebanon pullback

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent
Although five of the six Alignment MKs who spoke at the start of a general political debate in the Knesset last night called for a unilateral military withdrawal from Southern Lebanon, Prime Minister Peres said that the government's stand is still unchanged.

Peres said the government has fixed no deadlines and issued no ultimatum. He said the government still has its three original objectives, of bringing the soldiers back home after security arrangements are negotiated; of deploying the South Lebanon Army to protect the border; and of redeploying Unifil.

While Jacques Amir spoke against unilateral withdrawal, faction chairman Rafi Eidi advocated it, along with Simcha Dinitz, Haim Ramon, Ora Namir and Binyamin

ben-Eliezer of the Alignment's Yahad wing.

The debate is to continue at an as yet undetermined date, and over a dozen faction members have put their names down to speak.

Peres also revealed that he got a message yesterday from Italian Prime Minister Benito Craxi, who wrote that he has sent a message to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat telling him Italy is not satisfied with the PLO's position on the Middle East. Craxi's recent meeting with Arafat caused great annoyance in Jerusalem and was said to have caused the postponement of Peres's intended visit to Italy.

Craxi said he wrote Arafat that the idea of an international conference on the Middle East would lead nowhere. Craxi also wrote, Peres revealed, that Arafat told him it is his

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

Knesset panel urges cut-off of funds to religious councils

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent
Most members of the Knesset State Control Committee urged yesterday that no more state funding be channeled to the local religious councils until the shortcomings uncovered by the State Comptroller, in its present as well as his previous reports on the councils, are remedied.

Comptroller Yitzhak Tunik, in the report handed to the committee yesterday, said that the way the religious Affairs Ministry supervised the religious councils was generally slack and sometimes used.

Tunik said the ministry usually turned its spotlight on religious councils in small localities and neglected to supervise the councils in the towns and cities. He said the councils employed more staff than permitted, overspent their budgets.

Tunik complained that councils allowed staff who collect fees for services from the public to pocket the money themselves. In some cases the councils have been continuing to give cash grants to yeshivot, despite the Religious Affairs Ministry ban.

Ministry director-general Moshe Salomon said that as long as the ministry is not given statutory powers to approve the budgets of religious councils, the problem will never be solved. He said that the ministry is merely required to supply the funds, and this even in cases where the councils exceed their own budgets.

Salomon said the recent coalition agreement between Shas and the National Religious Party (to which he belongs) handled political aspects of control over religious councils, but ignored all the administrative and financial problems. (See story Page 2)

Lebanon attacks leave IDF, SLA unscathed

Jerusalem Post Reporter
JERUSALEM. — Two large roadside bombs south of Sidon were detonated yesterday as an IDF convoy was passing, but there were no injuries. Nor was anyone hurt during a half-hour firefight between terrorists and South Lebanon Army troops at the Akiva Bridge on the Litani River and when three rocket-propelled

grenades were fired at an SLA roadblock near Nabatiya.

SLA officers yesterday claimed communists are channeling funds and arms into south Lebanon to support attacks on the SLA.

Meanwhile, 69 more soldiers have joined the SLA after undergoing training. Half the recruits are Christians and the rest Shi'ites and Druse.



Prime Minister Peres greets Arab notables at the Christmas cocktail party given by Mayor Elias Freij (right) in Bethlehem yesterday.

(Zoom 77)

Plays down political import Peres in first visit ever by prime minister to Bethlehem

By DAVID RICHARDSON
Jerusalem Post Reporter
BETHLEHEM. — Prime Minister Peres yesterday paid the first visit ever by a premier to this West Bank town, but played down any political significance to his presence.

Peres was applauded by the several hundred guests invited to the traditional Christmas Eve cocktail provided by Mayor Elias Freij and the municipality in a local hotel.

"I bring a special holiday greeting from the Jewish people in Zion — a greeting of peace from those who love peace," Peres said, quoting from Isaiah. "I hope that mutual

respect, coexistence and understanding will prevail among all of us." He pledged that Israel would continue to guarantee the free access of all religions to their holy places.

Freij, who spoke first in Arabic, welcomed the presence of the prime minister as a "happy occasion." He too, in his short remarks, avoided attaching any special significance to the unprecedented visit of an Israeli premier. "I wish all good tidings, prosperity and peace side by side and hope for real peace, once and for all in this country."

Peres was accompanied by Police

(Continued on Back Page)

Thousands in Bethlehem celebrate Christmas Eve

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter
BETHLEHEM. — Thousands of local Christians and visitors from around the world gathered here yesterday for the town's traditional Christmas Eve festivities.

The weather was balmy, but the square was less packed than in previous years, despite Tourism Ministry predictions of a record number of visitors. At least some of those who had come as far as Bethlehem turned back after they saw the long lines

waiting for security checks, with many others waiting for over 30 minutes to pass through a lone metal detector.

No signs informed visitors of where to park or how they were to get into the square, and Border Police shouted directions in Hebrew. Some pilgrims waited with mounting anger as they saw local visitors, Jews and Arabs alike, walk to the head of the queue.

The crowd, mainly young people, listened to the visiting choirs, drank innumerable bottles of beer and

waiting for security checks, with many others waiting for over 30 minutes to pass through a lone metal detector.

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(Continued on Back Page)

Package deal II Histadrut weighing hard-currency linkage

By AVI TEMKIN
and ROY ISACOWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporters

With the start of negotiations about a second package deal imminent, the Histadrut is weighing a government proposal to link wages to the dollar or to a basket of European currencies.

The proposal was put forward in the past few days by senior government officials and economic experts. If accepted, such a measure could be the cornerstone of the second stage of the economic package deal.

Reliable sources said the senior officials offered to stabilize salaries for a long period by linking them to foreign currency, in return for the Histadrut not asking for compensation for past wage erosion.

Wages would be linked at their level at the end of the package deal, when they are expected to be about 10 per cent lower in real terms than last August.

The officials also told the Histadrut of plans to cut subsidies on basic foodstuffs, public transportation, fuel and electricity. The government wants the labour federation to forgo cost-of-living compensation for the resulting price increases.

The Histadrut is willing to study the idea of anchoring wages, and it

agrees that prices of basic commodities must go up, the sources said. But it will demand wage compensation for the price hikes.

There is apparently some opposition in the government to linking salaries to the dollar — a step some believe may harm exports and cause a rapid increase in unemployment.

These concerns are based on the possibility of a further increase in the value of the dollar against European currencies. If this happened while the economy was linked to the dollar, Israeli products would be less competitive abroad.

To overcome such opposition, it has been proposed to link wages to a basket of European currencies. Prime Minister Peres supports this idea, the sources said.

Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar and trade union division head Haim Haberfeld met with Hebrew University economist Prof. Michael Bruno some days ago to hear his ideas on linking wages to the dollar.

The sources said the meeting was informal. Bruno discussed his proposals for semi-dollarization of the economy accompanied by price hikes on basic foodstuffs, fuel, power and public transport.

Bruno was a member of the economic delegation which held talks with U.S. administration officials and economic experts last week ab-

out the state of the Israeli economy. The delegation returned yesterday after a week of meetings in Washington.

The Treasury said the delegation described various alternatives for economic policy for the coming year. It also presented Israel's request for \$4 billion in aid for fiscal 1986, and an additional \$800 million for 1985.

The alternatives discussed included semi-dollarization plans drawn up at the Bank of Israel research department, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the Histadrut is about to finish drafting its counter-proposals for the upcoming negotiations on the second stage of the economic package deal. The labour federation wants the talks to begin this week.

In the negotiations, the Histadrut is expected to push for strict price controls during the second stage of the accord. Such a measure should bring prices down "to 8 per cent in dollar terms — in addition to a 10 per cent drop since the freeze began in November."

The sources said that the labour federation wants to prevent windfall gains by speculators who have been building up stocks of merchandise in recent weeks in the expectation of a large price increase early in February.

'NY Times': 'Halt the aid to Israel'

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — U.S. officials yesterday expressed hope that the Reagan administration's highly publicized decision to defer any aid increase for Israel will spur the national unity government to enact a sweeping economic recovery program.

They spoke just after *The New York Times* published a strongly worded editorial backing the administration's tough stance with Israel.

"After 100 days of coalition government, bankrupt Israel has concluded that the boldest way out of

crisis is to bank on the sympathy and treasury of the U.S.," the editorial said. "Its two-party government has so far cut \$400 million, 1.6 per cent, from the national budget while preparing to ask for 12 times that amount in new American aid. It's no favour to Israel for the U.S. to endorse such a ratio of self-help to welfare."

Clearly reflecting the attitude of the administration as well as that of many congressmen, *The Times* said: "Even if America were not running \$200 billion deficits, \$5b. is a lot of money. Even from a stout ally, requests for doubling aid year after

year will not be kindly received in a Congress struggling to take its own severe budget cuts."

Last Friday, the State Department announced that it was postponing decision on Israel's request for \$800m. in emergency aid for 1985. This is in addition to requests for some \$4.1b. in combined economic and military aid for the 1986 fiscal year.

The State Department said the administration is awaiting further economic adjustments in Jerusalem. This position was welcomed by *The Times*.

Paying the ecological price of industrial growth

In the industrial zone adjoining Herzliya Pituah one night last summer, a pesticide warehouse went up in flames. Seven firemen were hurt. Hundreds of firefighters, police and soldiers fought the blaze until dawn of the next day.

When the sun rose, a menacing chemical cloud was hanging over Herzliya Pituah's elegant high-rises and handsome villas. "It was a bad situation," Dr. Uri Marinov, director of the Environmental Protection Service, told *The Jerusalem Post* in an interview this week.

"Local residents began complaining of stinging eyes and breathing

NEWS BACKGROUND/Aaron Sittner

difficulties. Yet nobody was available to decide if Herzliya Pituah should be evacuated.

What is more, despite all their training, our professional fire brigades didn't know which chemicals to use to fight such a blaze. And after the debris was collected in 200 crates, nobody knew where to dispose of it."

The concern of Herzliya Pituah residents was aroused belatedly after leaking gas at a pesticide plant in

Bhopal, India earlier this month killed more than 2,000 people.

So much for the pollution end of the mishap in Herzliya Pituah. As for the cause of the fire, Interior Ministry investigators concluded that it had "apparently" been caused by a self-igniting substance stored in the warehouse for too long. Though the facility had been licensed as a chemical warehouse, storage techniques "apparently" were less than perfect.

Having opted for an economic future based on industry rather than agriculture, Israel like all developing and developed countries must pay the ecological price. Not only do Israel's chemical plants feed our atmosphere with noxious or at least offensive fumes, but so do most other industries — to say nothing of the ever-growing number of motor vehicles.

Man-made wastes come in the form of gases or particulates (tiny particles of liquid or solid matter) which result chiefly from the burning

(Continued on Page 3)

Trying to defuse the banking time-bomb

In late 1940 when the Nazi-Soviet pact was still alive and well, and the Reichsmark seemed invincible, Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov visited Berlin.

There he was treated by his host, Ribbentrop, to a review of the German successes, and an assessment of the imminent collapse of Great Britain and its empire. The discussion focused on the division of the spoils — Germany would take North Africa and the Suez Canal, while recognizing Russian "interests" in India and

Israeli banking at the crossroads

(IV)

By PINHAS LANDAU



nosed as ever. "If Britain is finished, why are we in this shelter, and whose bombs are those falling outside?"

This story comes to mind because there are still some people in the banks and in government who — perhaps in their less lucid moments — contend that there is no real crisis in the banking industry. There are problems, they admit, but not of the sort that cannot be handled within a "business as normal" atmosphere.

It is only fair to point out that this is a very seldom-heard line of argument. Even the proponents of the "objective circumstances theory" outlined yesterday and enthusiastically subscribed to by most bankers, do not deny that the coming years

will see far-reaching changes in the industry. The entire discussion turns on just how far-reaching these changes should be, and are going to be.

Thus today there are very few bankers deaf to the sound of bombs exploding outside. Quite a few, in fact, are acutely aware of the many unexploded bombs scattered around, and are desperately trying to work out how to defuse them.

Because of this awareness, it may well be that 1984 — which was wasted by the governments on the economic front — has been put to some good use, after all. The numerous things that the banks have done to cut their costs and reorganize themselves

along more efficient and profit-oriented lines have already had a significant impact, and much more can be expected.

These new policies — which in many cases predate the specific trauma of October 1983 but were undoubtedly catalysed by it — will bear visible fruit when the banks publish their 1984 profit figures and balance sheets early next year. While exact estimates are not available, it is widely expected that the full-year results will continue the trend demonstrated by the figures for the first half of 1984, namely that

(Continued on Page 7)

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BRUSSELS	3	26	7	45	15	15	15	15
BUDAPEST	12	53	23	73	15	15	15	15
CHICAGO	17	19	8	43	15	15	15	15
COPENHAGEN	4	39	4	39	15	15	15	15
FRANKFURT	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
GENEVA	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
HELSINKI	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
HONGKONG	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
JERUSALEM	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
LONDON	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
MADRID	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
MONTREAL	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
NEW YORK	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
OSLO	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
PARIS	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
ROME	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
STOCKHOLM	1	24	2	36	15	15	15	15
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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

	Yesterday's	Today's	Max	Min
Jerusalem	52	10-14	15	15
Golan	81	10-14	15	15
Nahariya	82	10-14	15	15
Safed	82	10-14	15	15
Haifa Port	82	10-14	15	15
Tiberias	67	10-14	15	15
Nazareth	62	10-14	15	15
Afula	61	10-14	15	15
Shomron	55	10-14	15	15
Tel Aviv	68	10-14	15	15
B-G Airport	59	10-14	15	15
Jericho	62	10-14	15	15
Gaza	54	10-14	15	15
Beer Sheva	36	10-14	15	15
Eilat	48	10-14	15	15

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

A ceremony was held yesterday at the Magen David Adom centre in Bat Yam for the presentation of an ambulance to the MDA by Mrs. Rita Barki, in memory of her late husband, and by her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Conway, of London.

Gideon Reicher, Knesset correspondent for *Yedioth Aharonot*, was awarded the 1984/85 Sasho Svisslotzy Prize yesterday for Parliamentary Coverage.

The Israel Women's Lobby is organizing a series of open meetings on discrimination and desired reforms. The first is to take place in Jerusalem on Sunday, December 30, at 8 p.m., at the Zionist Confederation House.

ARRIVALS

Emunah Women of America Builders Mission headed by National President Charlotte Davis.

Steven Lorch, headmaster-designate of Mt. Scopus College, Melbourne, for consultations at the Hebrew University's Melton Centre for Jewish Education in the Diaspora.

\$52m. Canadian robbery

MONTREAL (Reuters). - Gunmen who robbed a stock brokerage firm here on Friday escaped with \$52 million in bonds, the firm revealed here yesterday.

HOME NEWS

Knesset approves cabinet appointments

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter

After an often-acrimonious three-hour debate, the Knesset yesterday approved the appointment of Shas leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz to the cabinet as minister of interior and that of Yosef Burg as minister for religious affairs.

The debate also encompassed a bill amending the Jewish Religious Services Law to incorporate the changes in scope of the functions of the two ministries that were part of the agreement reached late last Wednesday night.

The left opposition factions voted against the bill and against the ministerial appointments. Tehiya voted with the coalition for the bill, and abstained on the appointments.

The bill, which was presented by Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, passed its first reading and was referred to the Interior Committee. It guarantees three changes:

The first alters the composition of the appeals committee that rules on disputes over the composition of

religious councils. The prime minister will now replace the justice minister as chairman of the three-man committee, the other two members remaining the ministers of interior and religious affairs.

The second increases the government's share in covering the budgets of religious councils from one-third to 40 per cent, and decreases that of the local authority from two-thirds to 60 per cent.

The third gives the minister for religious affairs a say in the budgets of the religious councils by declaring that the budgets must be prepared in accordance with the rules laid down by him.

But David Liba'i (Alignment) said in the debate that the bill leaves unsolved the present anomaly whereby the Religious Affairs Ministry is required to cover even unauthorized expenditure of the religious councils (see separate story).

Following are other points made in the debate:

Elazar Granot (Mapam): The government is entrusting a ministry that

deals with a wide range of activities to a man (Peretz) whose world view is that of the fundamentalist stream in Judaism.

Rabbi Menahem Hacohen (Alignment): I shall not take part in today's vote. I cannot support the alteration of sound administrative practices to suit the needs or whims of individuals or parties.

Gershon Shafat (Tehiya): Transfer of all the functions of the religious affairs ministry to the interior ministry would point the way to more such consolidations and economies.

Avner Shaki (National Religious Party): Two years ago, long before the recent developments, the State Comptroller recommended that the authority for the budgets of the religious councils be concentrated in the religious affairs ministry.

Shevah Weiss (Alignment): Those who professed to be shocked by the protracted negotiations that led to the two new appointments are hypocritical. In the past, ministries were cut up and others created to meet the demands of their own parties.

Shulamit Aloni (Citizens Rights Movement): My quarrel is not with Shas but with Labour. In the Interior Ministry Shas will now be in control of the population register and will decide who is a *kohen* (of the priestly class) and who is a *manzer* (illegitimate), who is a divorcee and who a harlot.

Aharon Nahmias (Alignment): Both Aloni and Mapam will know that if Labour had been able to form a small coalition with the religious parties, including Shas and Agudat Yisrael, they would have joined such a coalition without a qualm.

Benay Shalit (Likud-Liberals): There are those who don't miss an opportunity to take a poke at religion. You say you object to this bill. As if you were in favour of the original law. You're against religious services as such.

Mordechai Virshupski (Shinui): Peretz should not be interior minister because of his lack of administrative experience and, more important, because of his world view.



Shas MK Yitzhak Peretz greets Interior and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon upon his return from New York and Sharon in turn offers his best wishes on the occasion of Peretz's cabinet appointment. (Sae Harari)

Milo says Greens can meet low-level official 'if they want'

Post Knesset Reporter

Deputy Foreign Minister Ronnie Milo said yesterday that the delegation of Bundestag members of the Greens Party due to arrive in Israel can meet a European Desk official of the Foreign Ministry, if they wish.

Replying to six motions for the agenda, Milo said that the delegation's request for high-level meetings has been turned down. "In view of the delegation's character and intentions."

Milo said that government policy is to permit the entry of tourists with critical and even hostile views of Israel and its government, unless their past actions call for denying them entry.

For that reason entry would be denied to Brigitte Heinrich, a Greens deputy in the Bundestag who was sentenced in West Germany to 21 months in jail for having aided Palestinian and German terrorists, Milo said.

He said that the document pre-

pared by the Greens in advance of their visit to the Middle East, ostensibly as conclusions from their study tour, had revealed their true objective: an anti-Israel propaganda trip.

Five of the six motions were referred to the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee: those of Yitzhak Artzi (Alignment-Independent Liberals), Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement), Meir Kahane (Kach), and Yehoshua Matza (Likud-Herut). That of Mattityahu Peled (Progressive List for Peace) was struck from the agenda.

According to reports from Bonn, the Greens delegation - now in Amman - is expected to provoke a showdown today at the Allenby Bridge, when Heinrich tries to cross into Israel with the rest of the group.

In Bonn, the party called for a unilateral, unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon, and criticized what it called Israeli failure to honour human rights in Lebanon.

Defence Ministry phones could be cut off for debts

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

An undisclosed number of phones used by the defence establishment will be disconnected starting Sunday if a debt of over IS10 billion is not paid to Bezek.

Since Bezek, the public telecommunications company, was established nearly a year ago, the defence establishment has run up the IS10b. bill, which does not include interest and linkage.

The *Jerusalem Post* has learned that the defence establishment has declined to cooperate with Bezek on compiling a list of non-essential phone lines that may be cut off. So Bezek is preparing a list on its own, with an eye to causing as little damage as possible to the defence establishment and security.

Bezek says that by letting the debt accumulate it was actually subsidizing the defence establishment. It

says it is no longer willing to do this. Contacts between Bezek and the Communications Ministry on the one hand, and the defence establishment on the other, have failed to produce agreement on the debt.

Bezek in the past has cut off phone lines of municipalities, government ministries and even hospitals because of unpaid bills. But it has never left these bodies without a phone.

Banks considering lower interest rates

The commercial banks are considering lowering next week interest on unauthorized overdrafts by more than 2 per cent, Israel Radio reported last night. This follows a decision to lower interest on approved credit by 2 per cent, bringing it to 10 per cent per month.

Trial of Temple Mt. suspect opens

The trial of Shimon Barda, who is charged with conspiring to blow up the Dome of the Rock, the al-Aksa mosque and the mosque at Nebi Samwil, north of the capital, opened in the Jerusalem District Court yesterday.

Barda, 25, of Holon, is accused of plotting last year with members of the Lifta gang to blow up the shrines. The other gang members are Uzi Mahsia, Yehuda Limai and Eliahu Saror.

The prosecutor told the court that Mansia and Limai had confessed. But he said a psychiatrist had determined that neither Limai nor Mahsia is fit to stand trial. Mahsia, who was deemed not responsible for his actions, has been put in a mental hospital, he said.

The fourth alleged gang member, Saror, has escaped to Italy, the prosecutor said.

At yesterday's session, the owners of a car-rental company testified. The prosecution claims that the accused transported explosives to the Temple Mount in one of the company's vehicles. (Itim)

NO DEADLINE

(Continued from Page One)

desire to maintain the unity of the PLO that prevents him from advocating negotiations with Israel.

Peres said that some of the points which King Hussein of Jordan made during his recent speech at the Palestine National Council in Amman were realistic. However, Peres said, if the king's "land for peace" formula is a precondition, then Israel also has preconditions, and if Hussein's stand is a final condition, then nobody in Israel would accept it.

Ata workers favour new recovery plan

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. - The Ata works committee yesterday gave its approval in principle to the government's plan to save the stricken textile concern.

The decision was announced at the end of a lengthy and stormy meeting held at the Kiryat Ata plant in the afternoon. Several committee members expressed grave concern over proposals to split the company into self-financing autonomous units. They believe this may result in more dismissals than originally anticipated.

Under the previous recovery programme a list of 366 workers to

be dismissed was drawn up. The final figure, however, could be higher, depending on the outcome of a new inquiry into Ata's operations. The investigation will take at least two months to complete.

In the absence of any other solution, the works committee decided they had no alternative but to go along with the government proposals, despite these reservations.

The committee authorized its representatives to conclude an agreement on the proposals in further talks last night with Finance Minister Moda'i and Justice Minister Nissim, who has been standing in for Industry and Trade Minister Sharon.

Rabin rules out settlement in Nablus

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has instructed the military government in the West Bank to prevent any attempt by Jewish settlers to establish themselves near Joseph's Tomb inside Nablus.

The defence minister's instructions follow persistent rumours that settlers and their supporters are to try to use Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremonies in the largest Arab town in the West Bank as a cover for establishing a long talked-of settlement there.

Italian defence chief due tomorrow

Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini is due here tomorrow for a courtesy visit, but some Israeli officials have expressed hope he would counter the impact of the recent meeting of Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Craxi and Andreotti met Arafat a fortnight ago, and Spadolini, who has been prime minister twice, was reportedly unhappy about the meeting.

The defence minister is due here

on a special military flight. His itinerary calls for the meetings with President Herzog, Prime Minister Peres, Defence Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Shamir.

He is scheduled to meet several IDF generals. He will also visit the military industries.

He is to go to Lebanon to visit the Italian contingent in Unifil. The Italians operate a helicopter unit there.

The invitation to Spadolini was extended by Rabin several months ago, and an aide to Rabin said the date had been set before the meeting with Arafat.

Navon jockeys for IBA reprieve

By GREER FAY CASHMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Education Minister Yitzhak Navon yesterday protested the Finance Ministry's declared refusal to transfer funds to pay the Broadcasting Authority workers' December salaries.

Navon, whose ministry is responsible for the IBA, told Finance Minister Moda'i that such unilateral action by the Treasury's Accountant-General is unacceptable in view of the absence of date of an in-depth examination of the IBA's economic straits.

Navon has so far failed to convince Moda'i to rescind the Treasury's financial freeze, and may bring the

matter before the cabinet on Sunday.

The flurry of activity at the IBA follows the disclosure Friday that the Treasury is not inclined to contribute to its \$9 million annual budgetary deficit by paying this month's salaries to its 1,600 employees. Continued withholding of these funds past the January 1 salary date could precipitate the closure of the state-operated electronic media.

Meanwhile, at a stormy meeting of the IBA's management committee, Labour MK and veteran news correspondent Amiram Nir charged IBA director-general Uri Porat with responsibility for the authority's financial problem, claiming he had consistently ignored repeated warnings to devise emergency measures to deal with it and to cut spending. But though implying that Porat has proved incompetent as head of the authority, Nir suggested the committee should best spend its time devising a rehabilitation programme designed to win Treasury approval and financial support.

Bar-Lev: Police guarding Sharon's ranch

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev yesterday disclosed that 11 policemen have been assigned permanent guard-duty at Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon's Negev ranch.

This was offered to the Interior Committee in partial explanation of manpower shortages affecting crime fighting.

He also said that with the prisons overcrowded by about 1,000 prisoners, his ministry would shortly table legislation enabling convicts to be granted a longer good-conduct remission than the present one-third of their sentences.

Bar-Lev said that convicts sentenced to six months would in future be allowed to do "outside work" on the premises of prisons and police installations, and not merely those given three months, as at present.



The Sheraton Hotels of Israel invite you to an evening of donuts and coffee, hot mulled wine and live entertainment, all in aid of The Jerusalem Post's Hanukkah Toy Fund and Forsake-Me-Not Fund.

All proceeds from the evening will go to the funds. The staff of the hotels is donating all service-charge income and the management is donating all foods and beverages.

Festivities begin at both Sheraton hotels in the lobby lounge at 4.45 p.m., December 25 (the last day of Hanukkah) and continue through to midnight. Lively music will be provided by international piano-bar entertainer Norman Hale and guitarist/singer Yossi Darom at the Tel Aviv Sheraton, and Livio at the piano in the King Solomon Sheraton Jerusalem.

Come one, come all to the Sheraton Hotels of Israel, and celebrate the last day of Hanukkah while helping our underprivileged young and old.



HAGA (Civil Defence)
Exercise in Kiron Area
Wednesday and Thursday, December 26 and 27, there will be a Haga exercise in the Kiron area. During the exercise sirens will be heard. In the event of a real attack, the sirens will sound a rising and falling note.

Air Force head: Enemy has advanced MiG-27 fighters

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Air Force commander, Aluf Amos Lapidot says the enemy already has advanced Soviet-made MiG-27s.

Lapidot said this in an interview with the Israeli Aircraft Industries' in-house magazine, *Shehakim*.

Lapidot is quoted as having said: "The enemy is constantly absorbing advanced and sophisticated systems. The examples of the recent years in the enemy's air forces are: advanced types of MiG-23, MiG-25 and MiG-27." He did not specify which country has the MiG-27.

The Israeli air force, on the other hand, "may have to cut its size to a certain extent in the near future" because of budgetary cuts, he said.

Most of the interview was a defence of the Lavi project. The air force commander, who had headed the project before assuming his present post, said Israel needs "a few dozen new fighter planes" every year to make up for attrition as a result of operational use, accidents and training. A new type of plane is needed every five years, he added.

The Lavi, he said, will be perfectly tailored to Israel's needs. Its capabilities will not be "particularly outstanding" with regard to elements

considered marginal here, but the air force envisages using it in conjunction with other planes.

"Technologically it will be a very advanced plane. Operationally it will be very much directed to our needs, on the assumption that we will use several types of fighter aircraft and divide the tasks in an optimal manner," he said.

He said the Lavi will also give Israel its own weapons system. The Arabs can acquire any foreign-made weapon Israel can. The alternative of introducing Israeli devices into western planes is expensive and time consuming, he argued.

The air force commander also said, he expects planes to remain in service for some 20 to 30 years. Skyhawks have been in the IAF for 16 years and are expected to be used for 10 more. The first Phantoms arrived in 1969 and there are no plans to pull them out. "They will probably serve in the air force for 30 years," he added.

UNION CARBIDE - An Indian government official has refused to renew the operating licence for the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal following the December 3 gas leak that killed more than 2,000 people. The United News of India reported yesterday.

In deep sorrow
we announce the death of our dear

Dr. FRITZ (Peretz) BRAUER

The funeral will take place tomorrow,
Wednesday, December 26, 1984, at 11.30 a.m.
at the Holon Cemetery.

The bereaved family

In deep sorrow we announce the death of
our dear husband, father, brother and grandfather

Dr. HEINRICH MÜNZ

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, December 25, 1984, at
2.00 p.m., leaving from the Municipal Funeral Parlour, 5 Dafna St., Tel
Aviv, for the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery.

Transportation will be provided for those attending.

The bereaved:
His wife: Ilse Münz
His son and daughter-in-law: Benjamin and Neomi Münz
His brother and sister-in-law: Max and Ellen Münz
His grandchildren: Jarom, Tamar and Amir

The Israel Museum
extends its deepest condolences to our friend, Harry Sapir, on the
passing of his

MOTHER

Our dear

ALBERT SACHS

is no more

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, December 25, 1984
at the municipal funeral parlour, Rehov Daphna 5, Tel Aviv,
and will proceed to the cemetery in Nahlat Yitzhak.

The bereaved:
Annelise Sachs
Margie, Josef and Michael Naftalison
Gaby, Ami and Donna Brown

Youth Aliya chief charges:

NY aliya centre is a 'Gush Emunim hotbed'

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Israel Aliya Centre in New York is a "hotbed" of Gush Emunim activities and provides support and funds for right-wing Jewish groups, claimed Uri Gordon, chairman of Youth Aliya, at yesterday's Zionist executive meeting in Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem Post learned that Gordon, a member of the executive representing the Labour Zionists, brought the matter up after having "discovered" documents attesting to the political nature of the aliya centre.

The Israel Aliya Centre is the headquarters of the World Zionist Organization's aliya department, at 15 Park Avenue in Manhattan, and coordinates the activities of all aliya messengers in North America. The director of the centre is Rabbi Shimon Shain, a former assistant to Knesset Member Dov Shikman.

Gordon claimed that the aliya centre has recently become "right-wing" in its activities, sponsoring seminars of Gush Emunim and other such groups. "While I welcome the aliya of any Jew who supports Gush Emunim or any other Zionist group, I object to the aliya centre taking on a political orientation."

Zionist Executive chairman Arye Dulzin, according to Gordon, was angry that he had brought up the matter, preferring it to be discussed "in private."

Haim Aharon, the Herut chairman of the aliya department and in charge of the aliya centre, vigorously denied Gordon's charges. The two are to meet soon, and Gordon is to bring along his "documents."

On another issue, Aharon said during the meeting that Finance Minister Modai must immediately cancel the freeze he imposed on government mortgages until the end of December, since it is also affecting immigrants.

Modai froze the mortgages because three times as many eligible persons applied for housing loans this month as last month. Aharon said that new immigrants who had signed contracts to buy flats are now stuck because they could not get the government loan. This would slow the immigrants' move out of crowded absorption centres, he continued, and create legal problems for the immigrants.

The Absorption Ministry has kept quiet about the freeze, noting that mortgages will be available again on January 1.

Bus attacker's trial delayed pending petition

The trial of David Ben-Shimon, who is charged with the rocket attack against an Arab bus in the capital in October, was postponed yesterday at the Jerusalem District Court. The postponement is to enable the High Court of Justice to consider a second petition by Ben-Shimon's attorney seeking to transfer the case to a military court.

A petition to transfer the case was rejected on Sunday. But the High Court said that if the attorney would

elaborate on the argument that trying Ben-Shimon in a criminal court constitutes discrimination, he could resubmit the application. The attorney had argued that having the trial in a criminal court is discriminatory because other soldiers have been tried in military courts for crimes committed while they were in uniform.

One man was killed and 10 others were wounded in the attack on the bus. (16im)

Man who turned in murder suspects is held

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Three Bethlehem men arrested as suspects in the attempted murder of 30-year-old Jerusalem woman released by police yesterday. The man who turned them in was arrested.

Sofian Freij, who police say is a Jerusalem underworld figure, was arrested yesterday afternoon and released by a Jerusalem Magistrate's court for 48 hours, after he gave the police false information that led to the arrest of the three men from Bethlehem, police sources said.

The police had asked that Freij be held for a longer time, but the judge agreed to Freij's request that his time be limited so that he can get

an attorney. Once the suspect gets a lawyer, the police plan to seek a further remand.

Meanwhile, the victim of the murder attempt, Shoshana Marini, is still not well enough to provide police with much help in their inquiry, the sources said. She is still in the intensive-care unit at Hadassah Hospital on Mt. Scopus.

Marini was assaulted and repeatedly stabbed while hitchhiking last week from Nevev Ya'acov to the city. She was dumped in an open field not far from the Shmuel Hanavi neighbourhood and was found bleeding and unconscious by a passing jogger.

Pocket calculators allowed for grades 1-6

Jerusalem Post Reporter
A request by parents and teachers to restrict the use of pocket calculators to higher grades was rejected yesterday by the chief inspector for mathematics instruction in the Education Ministry, Dr. Michael Koren.

The request followed concern that use of calculators in grades one to six

would foster a dependence on the instrument and prevent children from developing the ability to calculate manually or in their head.

In a memorandum on the matter, Koren said that the use of the calculators relaxes pupils intimidated by mathematical calculations and especially helps the slow learner.

13-year-old boy arrested for hitting his teacher

HAIFA (16im). - A local 13-year-old boy is being held by the police here on suspicion of hitting a teacher in a school.

The boy was brought to the magistrates court here yesterday and remanded for four days. A representa-

tive of the police's juvenile division told the court that the suspect had hit a teacher last week at the Korczak school.

The boy also threatened a classmate and offered him 15,000 to change his testimony to the police, the police said.

2nd Int. CONGRESS FOR THE STUDY OF SEPHARDI & ORIENTAL JEWRY
MAY 1985
MALAYIM 1 DEC. 23-28 1984



Minister of Education and Culture Yitzhak Navon inspects a copy of a new book on his childhood neighbourhood in Jerusalem, Ohel Moshe. The book was given to him yesterday at the Second International Congress for the Study of Sephardi and Oriental Jewry, being held at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. (Scoop 81)

Police still searching for fugitive IDF-arms thieves

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Three men - two of them still at large - are suspected by police of selling stolen army weapons to a Moslem fundamentalist underground cell. It was disclosed yesterday.

Shmuel Ivgy, 22, of Kiryat Arba, is already under arrest and was remanded on Sunday for 10 days by order of a Jerusalem magistrate.

Two Kiryat Gat men are still being sought by the Major Crimes Unit

of the national police.

The three are suspected of breaking into IDF armouries and stealing weapons which they later sold to a Moslem fundamentalist group, members of which recently began serving lengthy jail terms for terrorism.

Ivgy was arrested once before as a suspect in the illegal arms trade. He later moved to Kiryat Arba, where he was registered in a programme for newly Orthodox Jews who had run afoul of the law.

ECOLOGICAL PRICE

(Continued from Page One)

of fuel to power motor vehicles, heat buildings, operate industries and incinerate solid wastes.

Air pollution is exacerbated by an atmospheric condition called thermal inversion. This occurs when a layer of warm air settles over a layer of cool air near the ground and prevents pollutants from rising and scattering. Instead they collect close to the ground.

The thermal inversion continues until rain or wind breaks up the layer of stationary warm air, allowing the impurities to rise.

In London in 1952, about 4,000 persons died of respiratory disease during a "killer smog." Thermal inversions in New York City in 1953 and 1963 caused over 600 deaths. Among the victims were many people with a history of pneumonia, emphysema, asthma or bronchitis.

Though industrial development must claim an ecological price, an enlightened society seeks to keep that price as low as possible. That's why the Environmental Protection Service, a division of the Interior Ministry, was established several years ago.

"Ecology," EPS director Marinov claims, "has no patron saint in this country. Nobody wields a single club. In fact, there are nine government ministries and agencies, like nine chefs in a kitchen, involved in preparing the environmental-protection stew."

"Yet, the main course lacks something. There is duplication of ingredients. Some, such as vital laws, are left out altogether. And one chef often contradicts the orders issued by the other chef."

The nine government ministries and agencies are the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs, Industry and Trade, Health, Defence, Trans-

port, Agriculture, Interior, and Police and the Prime Minister's Office.

"Here are a few examples," adds Marinov. "Although there are 15 laws on the books for pollution control, not one provides for keeping track of imported or locally manufactured poisons from their appearance until their destruction or disposal."

"There is no training programme for poison control, nor any standing orders to cover operations in plants where noxious materials are used. It was only two months ago that the Transport Ministry finally promulgated regulations governing haulage of poisons on the roads."

Rules for transporting poisons came just in time. With the Ramat Hovav chemical-waste dump finally reopened in October after a two-year closure, thousands of tons of hazardous chemical wastes will soon be on their way to the site, 12 kilometres south of Beersheba. Tank trucks and semi-trailers from all parts of the country will deliver the waste.

"We had to fight long and hard for Ramat Hovav," Marinov recalled. "It was not until 1977 that an inter-ministerial committee agreed that this country needs a facility to 'neutralize' industry's mushrooming volume of poisonous chemical wastes."

"But our luck was short-lived. In the end, all we were promised was a dumping site and, for some unspecified time in the future, a neutralization plant. In 1979, the dump was opened and burial of the poisons began."

"This operation had continued for only 18 months when a fire broke out there. We immediately ordered Ramat Hovav shut down. But pressure began building, with industrial plants threatening to halt production because they had nowhere to dump their chemical wastes, and because storing them is against the law."

"But we still want a neutralization plant. So we have issued a temporary, six-month permit to the Industry and Trade Ministry to keep the dump going while they prepare plans for the neutralization plant."

The price of such a plant is between \$5-6 million. (First in a series on Israel's ecological problems)

Soviet Jews to be discussed with all foreign delegations

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The plight of Soviet Jews will be raised in every contact between official Israeli representatives and delegations from abroad, according to a decision decided yesterday by the ministerial committee on aliya and absorption, which met to discuss the worsening situation of Russian Jewry.

The committee, chaired by Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur, included Ministers David Levy, Moshe Arens, Ariel Sharon, Yosef Shapira, Yitzhak Peretz and Yigael Hurvitz.

The committee also called on Israeli parties and organizations to appeal to affiliated groups abroad to mobilize on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

Tsur said that he would set up a national committee to prepare the groundwork for absorbing large numbers of Russian Jews, in the hope that they will indeed be allowed to come here in the near future. Housing and jobs would be included in the plan. Tsur said that

such preparation would strengthen the spirits of Jews who are risking terms in labour camps and prisons by demanding the right to go to Israel.

The committee expressed its concern with a number of recent cases involving severe punishments and accusations against Jews: Yosef Berenshtein, Ya'acov Mash, Zachar Sonnenschein and Yuli Edelstein. The ministerial committee will hold another session soon.

Russian Jewry Solidarity Week is to climax on Thursday when a central assembly, attended by Prime Minister Peres and other leaders, will be held at the Jerusalem Theatre. Petitions have been signed on campuses around the country and demonstrations have been held.

Tsur is to dedicate an exhibition of works today by three Russian immigrant artists at 4:45 p.m. at the Cardo Gallery in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. The gallery plans to hold annual exhibitions of immigrants' works. Each of the artists has painted Jerusalem landscapes and biblical themes.

Deaf demonstrate in Tel Aviv

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - The quietest demonstration ever held in Israel took place here yesterday when 400 deaf persons participated in a "march of silence" from Dizengoff Circle to Kikar Malchei Yisrael.

Since they were unable to shout slogans, the demonstrators carried placards. "The deaf are treated like second-class citizens," one said. "A hearing aid is not a luxury," proclaimed another. "The world of silence cries out," was written on a third.

When the procession reached Kikar Malchei Yisrael, Moshe Shemtov, chairman of the Association of the Deaf, addressed the crowd in sign language, with an

interpreter translating his remarks for the press and the few passersby who stopped to listen.

Shemtov expressed anger that no minister, member of Knesset or official of the municipality had found time to come and hear what is bothering the deaf.

The demonstrators want to be recognized by law as disabled in order to get tax breaks and other benefits; equipment such as hearing aids is heavily taxed.

They are also concerned about employment. Those who do not have jobs are experiencing more difficulty than usual in finding work due to the economic situation, Shemtov said.

Less bread today due to bakers' strike

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Bread supplies may be short today in some parts of the country - especially in the North - after one bakers' organization yesterday declared a one-day strike to press for higher prices.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Trade said last night that the bakers' action is a continuation of their pressure earlier this year for higher subsidies. Their request, he added, is "still under negotiation

between the ministry and the Treasury."

As for an administrative move that would permit them to charge more per loaf, the spokesman said, "Any price increase during the freeze without specific permission from the Package Deal Follow-Up Committee is simply out of the question."

The committee is a tri-partite body of representatives of the government, Histadrut and employers.

Budget cuts 'threaten' Project Renewal in TA

By ILAN CHAIM
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Deputy Mayor Yigael Griffl yesterday sent an urgent letter to Housing Minister David Levy, warning that the city's five Project Renewal neighbourhoods are endangered by the budget restrictions imposed by the government in its recent agreement to help the city's financial plight.

Griffl told Levy, who is in charge of Project Renewal nationally, that

the cuts demanded in the city budget would bring work in the neighbourhoods to a halt, especially since the government's own contribution to the project has been cut. Griffl administers the project in Tel Aviv.

Tel Aviv's Project Renewal neighbourhoods are Jaffa C, Jaffa D, Nevev Sharett, Hatikva and Nevev Eliezer. Each is twinned with a Diaspora community which contributes funds, but Griffl added that overseas aid cannot keep the projects running.

Pimp gets 42 months for threats, extortion

TEL AVIV (16im). - A Khan Yunis man was sentenced to 3½ years in jail by the district court here for threatening and extorting from the prostitute on whose profits he lived.

Adal Rashuan, 25, lived for a long period with a prostitute in various places in Tel Aviv and Bat Yam. He was arrested in July after the

woman, named Orna, complained to the police that he had used threats and violence to force her to continue her work for him.

According to the prosecution, Orna had run away from Rashuan a number of times since 1979, and each time he caught her, locked her up and beat her to force her to resume her support of him.

Negev brain-drain may create high-tech desert

Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEERSHEBA. - Mayor Eliahu Navi is worried about a brain drain from the Negev to Tel Aviv because "university and technical college graduates, especially in electronics and computers, can't find work here."

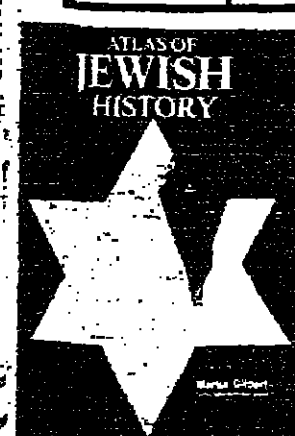
To find immediate solutions, Navi said, he has called a meeting of all Negev mayors for next Monday where he will propose that the idle automobile brake facility in Dimona become a factory for reconditioning

airplane motors and, that instead of expanding Ben-Gurion Airport, the Nevatim air force base in the Negev should be partially given over to civilian use.

UK OLIM. - The annual conference of the British Settlers Association, which is to focus on problems of housing for single immigrants, employment and social integration, is to be held at the absorption centre in Ra'anana, December 29 to 30.

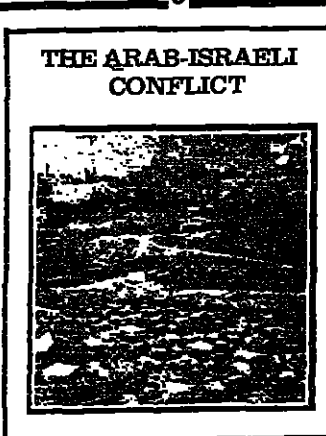
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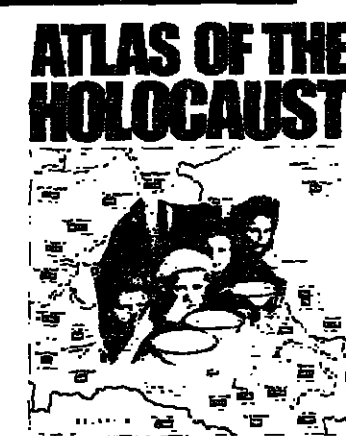
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Gas blast wrecks flat but spares residents

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. - An elderly couple escaped with only light injuries when a gas explosion badly damaged their home on Rehov Yofe Nof, on Mount Carmel yesterday morning, police reported.

The blast, which apparently occurred in the kitchen area of the ground-floor flat, partially demolished the wall of an adjoining flat and an exterior wall. Windows and shutters of other apartments in the two-storey building were also damaged.

A police sapper and a large contingent of policemen arrived at the scene minutes after the explosion, just before 7 a.m.

It is thought that a gas ring on the couple's cooker had been left open causing a build-up of gas which exploded when they tried to light the cooker.

Scofflaw motorists won't be relicensed

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Motorists who fail to pay parking fines will not be able to renew their driver's licences, thanks to an agreement reached recently between local authorities and the Ministry of Transport.

According to the agreement, illegal parking will include parking in designated lots without a parking ticket.

Under the terms of the agreement, local authorities will send a notice to the Ministry's Licensing Authority informing it of drivers who have not paid fines. His new licence will then be held until the fine is paid.

FREE RIDES. - The Israel Trucking Board on Sunday began a nationwide campaign of giving rides to soldiers in *navitas* (buses with a truck chassis) that are travelling empty.

NEW
From the Kitchen Library of The Jerusalem Post
The Sephardic KOSHER KITCHEN
by Suzy David
This warmly written cookbook is rich in Judaic cuisine and history. THE SEPHARDIC KOSHER KITCHEN features the very best and tastiest of the happy marriage of Spanish and Balkan cooking, ranging from the delicately spiced to the piquant. Illustrated by the author's husband, artist Jean David. Published by Jonathan David Inc. and distributed in Israel by Keter; hardcover, 228 pages. Price, IS 7,640

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17 dead, scores hurt in Italian train blast

SAN BENEDETTO VAL DISAM-BRO, Italy (AP). — Investigators said yesterday they were almost certain that terrorists set off the blast that ripped through an express train packed with Christmas vacationers, killing at least 17 people and injuring nearly 120 others.

Rescue workers said the death toll may rise because many of the injured are in critical condition.

The explosion Sunday night, while the Milan-bound train headed through one of Europe's longest railway tunnels, was the third on the same line and the seventh in the stretch between Florence and Bologna in the last decade.

Firemen and railroad engineers pulled the blood-splattered wreckage of the nine-car train from the tunnel. As snow fell, bomb squad

experts sifted through the bent metal and burnt plastic seats searching for clues.

Police officials directing the investigation told reporters that they are convinced the explosive, presumably a time bomb, had been in a baggage rack over the passengers in the penultimate car.

The explosion tore off the roof and destroyed two-thirds of the car. Shock waves reverberating through the tunnel shattered windows of the other cars. Many of the injured suffered cuts and bruises, the rescue officials said.

Police said the Naples-to-Milan express train was packed with 700 people. The explosion occurred nearly six kilometres inside the 18.6-km. tunnel through the Appennines.

A magistrate of the state attorney's office of Bologna who is investigating the case said he is "quite certain" terrorists were behind the bombing.

In anonymous calls to newspapers and news agencies, the attack was claimed by several right-wing terrorist groups, including the Armed Revolutionary Nuclei, the Black Order and the New Order. The left-wing Red Brigades, in two telephone calls to news agencies, denied any involvement.

PARDON. — President P.W. Botha of South Africa will pardon 44 aging long-term prisoners, two of them jailed for security offenses, by New Year's Day as a gesture of "Christmas goodwill," authorities said yesterday in Pretoria.

Scattered violence mars India poll

NEW DELHI. — Scattered violence hit India's election yesterday as more than 170 million voters turned out for a poll which Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said he would win easily.

Gandhi's governing Congress Party, long dominated by the late Indira Gandhi, campaigned largely on a wave of sympathy aroused by her death and on the need to uphold her heritage. Congress seemed headed for a landslide in the staggered three-day election with only the margin of its victory in doubt.

When polls closed yesterday, many districts had reported early turnouts of up to 60 per cent, an unusually high turnout by Indian standards. Mrs. Gandhi was last re-

turned to office in 1980 by a 57 per cent turnout, giving her a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament.

Scattered violence marred election day, though less than in many previous Indian elections. Eleven persons were reported killed in election fray in Bihar state. In Uttar Pradesh state, an independent candidate died of injuries suffered in an attack by unknown persons on election eve. One Communist Party worker was killed in a clash with political opponents in Tripura in the northeast. Another Communist was reported killed in Jharkhand in Bihar state yesterday by the explosion of a bomb he was carrying.

Menaka Gandhi, estranged sister-

in-law of the prime minister, charged yesterday that his supporters were stuffing ballot boxes in the district where she and Gandhi are contesting the same seat.

She also slapped his election agent, precipitating a clash between their rival camps.

"This is not a fair poll. This isn't polling but vote-rigging," the 28-year-old Mrs. Gandhi told reporters in the village of Ramgarh.

She and Gandhi are competing for the single parliamentary seat in impoverished Amethi district about 550 kilometres southeast of New Delhi. She leads an opposition party named after her late husband, Sanjay. (Reuter, AP).

Chernenko misses Ustinov's funeral

MOSCOW (Reuter). — President Konstantin Chernenko did not attend the state funeral of Politburo colleague and defence minister Dmitry Ustinov yesterday. Diplomats said the freezing weather rather than ill health probably kept him away.

Officials at the Red Square ceremony, attended by top Soviet leaders to inter Ustinov's ashes in the Kremlin wall, gave no reason for

Chernenko's absence. But they said he might have a cold or influenza.

Chernenko, 73, suffers from emphysema, a chest complaint aggravated by extreme cold.

The temperature in central Moscow was minus 22 degrees centigrade as the Politburo members, in heavy coats and fur hats, ascended Lenin's mausoleum for the funeral parade.

It was so cold that the metal instruments of the military band for the

funeral had to be covered with felt.

Most Nato countries boycotted the funeral, which they deemed a military parade, in protest against the five-year-old Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Only Greece and Turkey sent diplomats.

Ustinov was succeeded as defence minister by career soldier Marshal Sergei Sokolov, 73, and western diplomats have said they expect no immediate foreign policy changes.

Actor Peter Lawford dies at 61

LOS ANGELES (AP). — Peter Lawford, the suave actor and former in-law to the family of President John F. Kennedy, died yesterday of cardiac arrest after slipping into a coma and being placed on a life-support system, a hospital official said.

"It was a result of complications from previous illnesses," said a spokesman at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre.

Lawford, 61, had slipped into a coma Wednesday, four days after he entered the hospital.

The *New York Daily News*, quoting an unidentified Lawford associ-

ate, reported last week he was suffering from kidney and liver problems.

Lawford, who starred in *The Thin Man* television series, became better known for his associates than for his roles. He was a frequent face in Kennedy's White House and he was a prominent member of Frank Sinatra's Hollywood "rat pack."

His third wife, Patricia, 26, was at his side when he died. His children — his son and three daughters from his marriage to Patricia Kennedy — had visited him during the past few days.

Bus mishaps kill 71 in S. Africa, Mexico

Bus accidents in South Africa and Mexico yesterday killed 71 passengers homeward-bound for Christmas, and 87 others were injured and hospitalized.

Near Port Elizabeth, South Africa, a crowded bus careered off a mountain pass and overturned, killing 44 black passengers who were returning from Cape Town to the black homeland of Transkei for Christmas, police said.

About 44 other passengers were injured.

Near Celaya, Mexico, a bus overloaded with Christmas travellers veered off a highway overpass and plunged into a gorge, killing 27 and injuring 43, police said.

The bus went off the road 230 kilometres west of Mexico City. (AP)

Shoppers pick way over riot debris

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (Reuter). — Last-minute Christmas shoppers in Londonderry yesterday had to pick their way over the debris of overnight rioting which followed the funeral of an Irish Republican Army guerrilla.

Police clashed with stone-throwing IRA sympathizers through the night in a series of street battles in which 36 people were injured. One man was reported in serious condition after being hit in the face by a police plastic bullet.

The violence started when police tried to prevent mourners bidding a military-style farewell to Kieran Fleming, who drowned in a river near this city. Northern Ireland's second largest, three weeks ago while fleeing an ambush by security forces. Yesterday the streets were littered with stones, bottles and other makeshift weapons, and soldiers and police were on the alert for a bomb attack in the city centre.

Stalin's daughter reportedly in Georgia

LONDON (AP). — Svetlana Alliluyeva, daughter of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, has gone to live in her native Georgia along with her American-born daughter, *The Times* of London reported yesterday.

Quoting unidentified sources in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, *The Times* said a residence permit for the two had been granted and the authorizing letter read at a recent meeting of the local Tbilisi Communist Party chapter.

Spanish police defuse booby-trapped banker

MADRID (Reuter). — Spanish bomb-squad experts yesterday defused a bomb tied to the chest of a bank manager here, foiling an attempted robbery, police said.

Antonio Diezma was accosted outside his home by three assailants who tied an explosive device to his chest. They ordered him to go to the Madrid Savings Bank he manages

and to await a telephone call.

Employees at the bank noticed Diezma's nervous state when he entered the bank. They phoned the police who rushed a bomb squad to the bank to deactivate the device before the assailants could carry out their robbery.

Diezma wore the bomb on his chest for almost two hours.

Artificial heart man marks Christmas

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP). — William Schroeder, the artificial heart recipient recovering from a series of strokes, spent a quiet day with his family Sunday as they exchanged Christmas gifts.

The 52-year-old retired federal employee remained in the critical care unit at the Humana Heart Institute International. He was in serious but stable condition, with a good appetite, hospital officials said.

Physical therapy exercises, at least one short walk in his room and the

visit with his family were the only activities Humana officials disclosed Sunday.

"They have asked for privacy. They don't want much excitement," said Robert Irvine, a Humana spokesman.

Schroeder was given a plastic and metal heart on November 25. On December 13, he suffered three small strokes. Specialists spent the weekend studying results of tests performed to detect blood clots in the artificial heart or in the brain.

Tasty iguana may soon become extinct

LOS ANGELES (AP). — The green iguana, hunted in the jungles of Latin America as a tasty delicacy, is in danger of extinction and biologists are urging that the lizard be raised on ranches.

Commercial production would protect wild iguanas from extinction while providing the jungle-dwellers who savour them as a source of protein, the scientists say.

The lizard, said to taste like chicken, is especially popular in a spicy stew. Professional hunters have come dangerously close to picking the jungle clean of the reptiles, scientists say.

"They're very tasty, and that's their problem," said one American herpetologist. "They're being hunted right into extinction and are in more danger than the sea turtles."

Sri Lanka minister sacked in cabinet row

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP). — President Junius Jayewardene replaced Industries Minister Cyril Mathew yesterday, accusing him of a deliberate breach of cabinet responsibility in criticizing a proposal aimed at solving Sri Lanka's ethnic

conflicts.

In a letter, Jayewardene told Mathew, one of his long-time lieutenants, that since he had flouted norms of cabinet conduct, "I presume you have decided to cease to be one of my ministers."

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Sports

Perkis recharging

By JACK LEON

TEL AVIV. — New tennis hero Shahar Perkis returned home on Sunday evening from his successful Australian tour. He is now taking a three-week break before embarking on a U.S. trip in mid-January with local champion Shlomo Glickstein.

Perkis, 22, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that he expects to finish 1984 around 75th in the Association of Tennis Professionals world singles rankings. This represents a rise of 220 places up the standings in the past 12 months, an achievement which has made him a second favourite, behind American Robert Green, for the ATP's "newcomer of the year" award. Perkis said that his prize money earnings during 1984 will amount to some \$50,000.

The gangling Haifaite is now to go for the big time on the Grand Prix circuit. In mid-January, he and Glickstein are to participate in tournaments in Philadelphia and Memphis, worth \$300,000 and \$250,000 respectively.

The two Israelis, who will team up in doubles, are then to compete in the inaugural Lipton International Players Championships in Delray Beach, Florida, which has a draw of 128 in singles and 64 in doubles.

Until now, only Wimbledon and the U.S. and French Opens — the game's three big Grand Slam tournaments — have enjoyed draws of this size.

Meanwhile, Glickstein and his sister Yael were beaten 6-2, 6-4 by Shirley and Guy Bital at the weekend's All-in-the-Family tennis tourney in Tel Aviv.

Aussies in deep trouble

MELBOURNE (AP). — Australia narrowly avoided the follow on but were still in desperate trouble against the West Indies at the close of play on the third day of the fourth cricket test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

Bad light stopped play just before 5 p.m. with Australia 281 for nine in reply to the Windies' first innings total of 479.

At the crease were Murray Bennett on 17 and Rodney Hogg on 12.

Australia needed 279 runs to avoid the follow on and this looked beyond reach when the ninth wicket fell.

But Murray and Hogg put on an unbeaten partnership of 28 in 45 minutes to temporarily steer Australia out of trouble.

Australian Captain Allan Border said he was disappointed with his side's collapse but was pleased to have made the Windies bat again.

Australia got off to a fine start when they resumed for 115 for one with Andrew Hilditch and Kepler Wessels putting on a partnership of 123 in 174 minutes.

After the pair were dismissed things began to go sour for Australia with three wickets falling in the space of only two runs.

Once again, out-of-form former Australian, captain Kim Hughes could not get into the match and he was dismissed after only two balls for a duck, caught behind by wicket-keeper Jeff Dujon off the bowling of speedster Courtney Walsh.

But the man who did the most damage for the visitors was all rounder Malcolm Marshall, who initiated the collapse of the middle order and finished with four wickets for 76 from 29.2 overs.

Lewis, Navratilova honoured again

LONDON (AP). — For the second successive time, America's track star Carl Lewis and Czech-born tennis champion Martina Navratilova were chosen as sportsman and sportswoman of the year by sports writers of the Associated Press in Europe.

Lewis dominated track events at the summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, winning a record-equaling four gold medals.

The versatile American won the 100 and 200-metre sprints, anchored the U.S. team to victory in the 400-metre relay and also struck gold in the long jump.

In doing so, Lewis emulated the legendary Jesse Owens, who won gold medals in the same four events at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

When she won the French championships in June, Navratilova became only the third woman player in history to win the Grand Slam — consecutive victories in the world's four major tennis tournaments.

She picked up a \$1 million bonus put forward by the International Tennis Federation and was en route to another grand slam — the calendar year version — when she was surprisingly beaten in the semi-finals of the Australian Open earlier this month by Czechoslovakia's Helena Sukova.

It was only her second defeat in 75 singles matches during 1984.

Meanwhile, soccer star Michel Platini, captain of France's European Championship winning side this year, was on Sunday named 1984 French Champion of Champions in a poll by *L'Equipe* sports newspaper.

It was the second time Platini, who plays for Italian club Juventus, has won the prestigious annual award. The last time was in 1977.

THE HISPANIC community is the fastest-growing minority in the U.S. It is also a group that has a great deal in common with the Jewish community, says Carol Lister, regional director for New York of the B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League, who has just accompanied the first organized group of Hispanic leaders to visit Israel.

Nine people were selected for the tour, says Lister, "people responsible for the major political and social progress in the Hispanic community."

All work for New York Governor Mario Cuomo, whose state has not only the largest concentration of Jews in the Western world outside of Israel, but is also home to 1.4 million Hispanics, most of them Puerto Ricans (there is a total of some five million Hispanic Americans).

In terms of culture, sense of community and ties to a homeland, the Hispanics have something in common with the Jews, says Lister. And then there is the problem of prejudice, which both groups have had to overcome.

In Israel, the Hispanic visitors found a man who spoke to their hearts about that problem - Eliezer Shmueli, director-general of the Education Ministry.

Shmueli outlined what Israel was doing to integrate immigrants with-

A matter of principle

By GREER FAY CASHMAN / Jerusalem Post Reporter

out robbing them of their cultural heritage.

"You can't imagine what an impression that made on us when we struggle in an over-all society that looks down on Puerto Ricans, their language and their culture," says Nestor Llamas, executive director of Cuomo's advisory committee on Hispanic affairs.

Tonio Burgos, director of executive services in the governor's office, commented that meeting Shmueli was "the most important session" of the visit, adding, "I wish we had this man in New York."

WHAT HELPED to spark instant chemistry between Shmueli and the visitors was that Shmueli is of Sephardi origin. According to Lister, the Hispanics displayed "a powerful sense of kinship" in all

their meetings with Sephardi Israelis, and more so when they had Spanish as a common tongue. His impression was later confirmed by members of the group.

Partially because there is such a large concentration of Hispanics in the Harlem area, there is a perspective inside and outside America, says Lister, "that blacks and Hispanics are hyphenated. They are not."

Unlike the blacks, she explains, the Hispanics are not involved with race questions. While there are certain areas in which there are common causes between the Hispanic and the black communities, "their destinies are not inextricably intertwined."

What they have in common is rooted in the common reality of being down-trodden and among the poorest of the poor.

AS A COMMUNITY, Lister notes, the Hispanics are becoming increasingly well organized. "They have some extremely sophisticated people who understand that no minority group has ever been able to go it alone."

For Llamas and Burgos, this was a first visit to Israel. Because they were able to meet people in many walks of life, and were not limited to seeing people only at the leadership level, they were also able to relate to the realities of the country and to reinforce a sense of parallelism developed in their dialogue with the Jewish community of New York.

Burgos, who is well-informed about Israel, says that no matter how much one knows, "nothing beats being here." For him and his colleagues, there is a symbolic value in the establishment and survival of Israel: "We've also had our struggle to maintain our identity as a people."

Llamas was "deeply impressed" by the unwavering commitment on the part of Israelis all across the political spectrum to the concept of homeland. He found it uplifting to hear everyone he met talk of Israel as a place to which every Jew can come and call home.

In his mind's eye, Llamas had fashioned Israel as "some larger entity" and was amazed that he could travel from the Golan Heights to

Tiberias and on to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in less than a day. When he saw some of the strategic northern observation posts, he also realized what it means to be surrounded by enemies. "In the U.S. we've never been bombed, we've never been attacked."

"The biggest problem with our borders," says Burgos, "is illegal aliens."

Viewing Israel as a learning experience, the Hispanics agreed that the most important lesson was that nothing is impossible when a group gets together to do something positive. "It may sound corny," says Burgos, "but for us, to be renewed with hope is so important."

He sees "an absolute need" to continue the dialogue with the ADL and to have a working body to continue the relationship between the Hispanic community and Israel.

It was just over a year ago that the ADL began conducting a dialogue with the Hispanic leadership. An early fruit of that dialogue was a letter to Soviet officials in New York in support of pleas for Soviet Jews to be granted emigration permits.

The letter was hand delivered by Nestor Llamas and New York Assemblyman Angelo Del Toro, chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus in the New York State Legislature, who was one of the nine on the tour.

Desert trip

RANDOMALIA/Miriam Arad

SOME THINGS you read and hear about, and they mean nothing till you see them for yourself. One knew, for instance, that the army had left Sinai and moved itself lock, stock and barrel to the Negev, but it was only when we went down there after a few years' interval and saw the strange fruit growing in the wilderness, that it really came home to us.

It starts right after Beersheba with incomprehensible signposts along the way: MQ100349, they say, and BSS. It's a habit with the military to number everything. Our border with Egypt included, as we found out driving along it. They have rather less MQ's there, and instead the signs say: Alef Gimmel 35, Alef Gimmel 36, etc., which we eventually translated into even g'vul, i.e., borderstone. Very useful it is too. I'm sure, like one of our boys can call over to his Egyptian counterpart (and they are within calling distance of each other): "If you're looking for that apple you dropped, it's near Alef Gimmel 41."

The cryptic signs are interspersed with notices in Hebrew and English, mostly to the effect that everything to the left of the road for the next 10 kilometres is a firing zone, meaning you had better keep going straight on, or else. If it isn't to the left of the road, it's to the right, and not infrequently it's both. If it is none of these, it's a plain unelucidated "No Movement [sic] Beside Road." We looked and it was true: nothing did move out there.

We were even more intrigued by a collection of benches under a thatched awning in the middle of nowhere, which bore the legend: "Machine-guns' Shelter." Did it imply that if you were a tracker or an artillery man and wanted a rest in the shade, you couldn't go there? Would you have to trudge on and on till you came to a "Trackers' Shelter?" The army moves in mysterious ways its wonders to perform.

LITTLE LOVE is lost between it and the people of the Nature Protection Society, who share the wide emptiness of the Negev with them. They regard one another as neces-

sary evils, and as landgrabbers you've got to watch carefully so they don't grab what's yours.

They are charming people, though, those nature protectors. You walk with one of them in the desert, and while you see nothing but sand, dust and dry scrub from here to eternity, he bends suddenly, picks up a few bits of straw stuck together, and informs you it is the cocoon of 1-forget-which larva. Three steps further on he spies a perfectly camouflaged lizard; picks that up with incredible dexterity, and holds it gently in the palm of his hand as he tells you all about its disposition, digestive system and sex life, and then lets it go again without making it lose its tail. He can also name any growing thing by a glance at the leaf, twig, thorn or flower you show him. "That," he says unhesitatingly, "is an Anabasis."

They have eyes like us, but they see a great deal more with them, those Sherlock Holmeses of nature. What to us is no more than a two-inch hole in the ground we'd have blithely passed by, to them is a whole series of events past, present and future. It's training, no doubt.

At the Mitzpe Ramon field school, where we spent the night, there is an enormous notice board on which people write their observations of plant and animal life. It was there I learnt that on December 19, at 3.45 p.m., a hyena had crossed the road from east to west just behind the planetarium; which information was followed by particulars about its size, colour, estimated speed and general behaviour. Signed: Yaron. I also learnt a few important facts about lichen, such as that spitting on a rock brings them out - but let's not go into that too deeply: there's a limit to what you and I wish to know about lichen.

What you may wish to know is that with all that's going on in the Negev, it still is a beautifully silent place. I had really forgotten the taste of that great desert hush, and I had also forgotten how very wonderful it is. If you want to give your ears a rest from the city din, and from all that movement beside the road, go south, reader, go south.

Extraordinary event

MUSIC / Yohanan Boehm

weaving garlands of coloraturas around him. The main idea of these pieces is that one part is always easier than the second to allow pupils to play together with their teachers or more advanced colleagues.

The picture of the stage crowded with these young musicians was a sight to behold, but their playing in ever changing doubles with firmness and technical skill was even more encouraging and heart-warming. They joined together in a rousing finale, which had to be repeated.

Beginning the evening, Carlo Chiappara performed Berio's *Sequenza No. 8* in which he could prove his prowess and commitment to contemporary writing with aplomb; later he sat among his young charges and joined them in

some of the variations. Both musically and educationally, this was a great success; full honours to Luciano Berio for his duets, and to all involved in this excellent project.

JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Gary Bertini conducting (Jerusalem Theatre, December 20). Back: All Str. Brandenburg Concertos, with Philipp Ledger, harpsichord; Graham Oppenheimer, viola; Wolfgang Busch, Bach trumpet and 13 members of the JSO as soloists.

THOUGH the composer never intended for the six Brandenburg Concertos to be performed all in one evening, the contrasts in form and the instrumental combinations were so pronounced (clearly someone thoughtfully decided the order of presentation), that the programme as a whole could be enjoyed wholeheartedly, the more so as the presentations were of a pleasingly

high standard. The extremely difficult and exposed parts of the French horns in No. 1 were played most expertly by Eyal Wilner and Eli Edut; in the same concerto, the oboe section led by George Haas performed beautifully in tone, precision and balance.

Violinists Rima Kaminkovsky (No. 1) Yigal Tureh (No. 5), Bar-sheva Savaldi-Kohlberg (No. 4) and Moti Shmit (No. 2) were excellent; the violas in No. 6, Yuval Kaminkovsky and guest artist Graham Oppenheimer, proved their expertise in flawless dialogue and unanimous purpose.

The flutes of Noam Buchman and Rami Tal sounded beautiful in No. 4, while I cared less for the contribution of Nahum Seidel (No. 5 and 2). Our other guest from England, harpsichordist Philipp Ledger, served the continuo with visible attention and could even be heard occasionally; his solo part in No. 5 was executed with brilliant fluency and impressive velocity.

Special mention has to be given to cellist Alexander Kaganovsky for his

unfailing service to the continuo in all the concertos. The two violas da gamba in No. 6 added a touch of historic authenticity, though their contribution was hardly ever audible.

And, finally, the trumpet part in No. 2, for which Wolfgang Busch had been invited from Germany. This most dangerous solo part - perhaps the most difficult in the whole repertoire for the trumpet - needs an embouchure with lips of iron and complete control of nerves to master its enormous demands. If Busch perhaps missed the elasticity and elegance of famous Maurice André, his performance was flawless and reliable, clean and precise.

Gary Bertini's preference for lively tempi may have helped to keep the presentations clear of cobwebs, but some of his Allegros were simply too hasty to be fully enjoyed, though one could admire the adroitness of the string players in executing all their notes at such speed.

All in all, this was a singularly enjoyable evening in celebration of the master's tercentenary.

TOURISM & PILGRIMAGE

Sinai revisited

A winter-time southern safari brings back warm memories for Nomi Morris.

MANY OF us remember the Sinai Desert as a paradise of free living, where we revelled in sand, sea and sky in the private seclusion of a magnificent primitive wilderness. We mourned the Israeli withdrawal in the spring of 1982 as if we had lost a beloved friend.

After two and a half years' absence I returned to Sinai with nostalgic expectations and fears of what I might find there. Yet I came back with the conviction that the altered political situation is a minor detail in light of majestic natural beauty that remains untouched, and historic wonders that remain accessible.

A border crossing should pose no obstacle to those who want to experience what is still the ideal vacation - be it sun and snorkelling, survival hiking and camping up in the mountains, or a religious pilgrimage.

I set out from Jerusalem on an organized five-day camping safari. For approximately \$300, all equipment, from sleeping bags to masks and snorkels, was provided. The food was excellent and abundant, including fresh vegetables and meat dinners every night. Transportation was an open-sided four-wheel drive jeep which took us comfortably

through rough terrain, off the beaten track.

We were met at the border by an Egyptian guide who was to accompany us throughout our trip. For a stay of under one week, a visa can be obtained at the border by changing \$6 into Egyptian pounds to pay an entrance fee. This sort of visa limits one to travel no further west than Santa Katerina; to the south, Ras Muhammad, spectacular white cliffs at the tip of the Red Sea's east coast, remains out of bounds.

For stays of more than a week, one must change \$150 into pounds, but can continue on through Cairo to the rest of Egypt.

It is possible to go into Sinai without the supervision of an organized tour, but leaving the main roads is prohibited unless an Egyptian or Beduin companion goes with you.

For those who do not have cars, there is a public bus that goes from Tabá (the border) down the coast, stopping at Nuweiba, Dahab and Sharm el-Sheikh. Hotel and hostel accommodations are available in these villages. Sleeping on the beach is confined to certain designated areas.

Rented cars cannot be taken into Sinai, which means that most tourists must either take a tour or ride the bus. Persons with South African passports are not permitted to enter Egypt.

We stopped for a view of the Crusader fortress on Coral Island and the Beduin village of Nuweiba, then turned into the rugged mountains of Sinai's interior. The spectacular rock formation changed from one area to the next. Steep black ranges of metamorphic rock gave way to gold sandstone cut by narrow valleys, then massive red granite peaks. We were constantly surrounded by vivid colours and drama-

tic natural sculpture.

We visited Nawamis, a fascinating burial site dating from the early Bronze Age. Here, a desolate plain is dotted with at least 20 circular structures, the oldest archaeological relics to have been found with the roofs intact.

We were also taken to the Rock of Inscriptions where one can see graffiti in Aramaic, Greek and Hebrew, left by pilgrims to Mount Sinai. Not far away we stopped for a panoramic view of the Ein Hudra oasis.

The climax of our adventure was visiting the site which is believed to be Mount Sinai, where Moses received the Ten Commandments. We

wound our way up the 1,185m. peak in the silence of the desert night under a dome of glittering stars. The long and difficult climb served to increase our sense of elation upon reaching the top at sunrise.

At the foot of the mountain - known as Jabel Musa by the local population - lies the famous monastery of Santa Katerina. Israeli guides are prohibited from giving any explanations in the Santa Katerina area so we were led through by our Egyptian guide.

From there it was back out to the coast to sunbathe and snorkel in the deep blue inlets of Ras Amsid, Shark's Bay and Dahab. Scaling long

stretches of coral reef afforded us a breathtaking encounter with purple, yellow and turquoise fish who come right up to the swimmer's face.

Approaching Sharm el-Sheikh one is greeted by a huge portrait of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. This, along with numerous military checkpoints and signs warning foreigners not to go off the main road, is a less than subtle reminder of the Egyptian presence in Sinai. The buildings of the Israeli settlement of Ofra are still standing, now inhabited by Egyptian military and tourism officials.

The scenery between Sharm and Dahab is particularly striking, lines of green, yellow and red zigzagging down the canyon walls. But the shoreline immediately south of Dahab is tragically desecrated by heaps of garbage. Litter is noticeable in many other spots in the desert, including the very top of Mount Sinai.

Before our journey ended we were invited for tea at the home of our Beduin driver. Contact with this friendly indigenous population highlighted our entire trip. They are a living example of the thousands of years of human history that we span-

ned in only a few days.

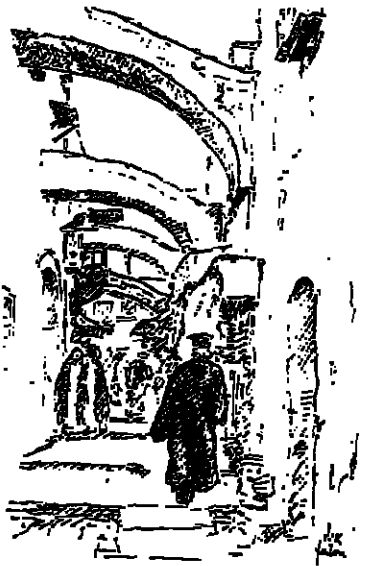
The tour I took was run by Neot Hakikar, a company that has much experience in safari travel. While a five-day tour is standard, trips of two to seven days are offered, including a high range trek with more emphasis on hiking. My guide was a walking encyclopedia of geology, history, flora and fauna, who made sure that everything ran smoothly. (A friend who took a two-day trip, however, reported that her guide hardly said a word and let the group climb Mount Sinai completely on their own.)

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel also operates in Sinai, offering extensive hiking in the Santa Katerina area. For a less rugged experience, Galilee Tours has just begun running trips using hostels and hotels.

If you are not an experienced scuba diver but choose to go to Sinai for that purpose, be careful. The standard of instruction and equipment is not as high now as it was during the Israeli era. If you go during the winter months take ski jackets, hats and gloves or you will suffer from the wind and cold while driving during the day and sleeping outdoors at night.

Along the Way

Michelle Mazel



(Drawing by Eliahu Elton)

in common with the streets of what had been Jewish Jerusalem.

In fact, when the Roman Empire turned Christian in the fifth century in the wake of its emperor, Constantine, Christian dignitaries led by Helena (mother of the Emperor) came to Jerusalem searching for holy Christian sites. Theirs was not an easy task for there was nothing but the Scriptures and tradition to go on, and the topography of the place had changed drastically.

The discovery of the Holy Sepulchre was hailed as a miracle, but no attempt was made then to find or trace the Via Dolorosa. (The name "Via Dolorosa" was actually coined later.)

Churches and convents commemorating every episode in Jesus' life blossomed all over the city until 614 when Persian invaders wreaked havoc on the Holy Land. Then came the Arabs.

Repeated onslaughts on the holy places helped to bring about the Crusades, when Christian Europe

rallied to save the Tomb of the Saviour. By the time the Crusaders entered Jerusalem (1099) very few churches were still standing, and none was undamaged. The Crusaders built new churches and monasteries which lasted nearly a century until they were destroyed and made into mosques, schools, and so on.

Centuries later, when Christian pilgrims started coming again to Jerusalem, searching for the Via Dolorosa and the Stations of the Cross, they found nothing in the Moslem city. They kept searching and pressure was so strong that various Christian religious orders started fighting to regain possession of sites and ancient buildings where once stood Byzantine and Crusader churches.

Suitably restored, these sites then served as anchors for most of the Stations of the Cross as we know them today. Over the years Stations were moved around, as was the Way itself. However, by the late 19th century the Via Dolorosa had gained right of place; its name appeared on all Christian maps. Today nine Stations are actually on the route; the last five are inside the Holy Sepulchre.

Is there then any connection between the Via Dolorosa we see today - this busy, Oriental *shuk* with its pungent smells of spice - and the actual site of Jesus' last walk? Strangely enough, the answer is yes. If indeed the slow march to the Calvary did start at the northwestern corner of the Temple Mount, what was then the Antonia fortress (where, according to experts, Jesus was detained and judged), and ended at the Golgotha, inside what is today the Holy Sepulchre, then a cursory glance at a map will show that Jesus must have passed very close to the route of the present-day Via Dolorosa, perhaps crossing it and recrossing it more than once...

IN THE heart of Jerusalem's Old City, a narrow, winding lane, hemmed in by shops and stalls, leads from the northwest corner of the Temple Mount to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

This is the Via Dolorosa - the route of the last walk of Jesus, where thousands come every year to pray and to mourn. Very few of these visitors know that they are, in fact, perpetuating a tradition born in Europe in the Middle Ages...

Pilgrimage to Jerusalem became difficult and hazardous after the fall of the Holy Land to the armies of Saladin, who defeated the Crusaders in 1187. So, devout Christians in Europe, who could no longer make the dangerous trip to the shrines of Christendom, found an original solution to their problem: They went on a "pilgrimage" around their own churches.

In every church, great or small, the 14 Stations of the Cross, the stops on Jesus' walk to his death, were represented on the walls. No church was complete without its own version of the Via Dolorosa, the "Dolorous Way." On Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion, entire congregations would go from one station to another on bended knees, so that it might endure some of the sufferings Jesus had suffered on his way to the Calvary.

During the Middle Ages many stories connected with the Stations of the Cross evolved since the Gos-

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Lifeline for Ata

UNLIKE some other democratic countries, Israel abhors unemployment, especially in the mass. The national consensus decrees that the road to economic recovery must not be paved over factories that have gone under. And if people are, nevertheless, thrown out of jobs, this is viewed as the direct responsibility of the government, much in the same way as inflation, if not more so.

That one of the country's largest industrial plants, the Ata complex, is due to be closed by the end of the month, cannot therefore be a matter of indifference for the government. For one thing, the two major parties fear the impact the firing of Ata's 2,600 workers might have on their chances to win the Histadrut elections next year.

The problem for the government arises from the fact that there are currently no buyers, domestic or foreign, for the debt-ridden, near-bankrupt Ata. But does it necessarily follow that the government must pour public money into Ata to keep it going, even in the face of strong indications that the firm is terminally sick?

This is the direction of official opinion. Under a proposal offered by the acting industry and trade minister, Moshe Nissim, the government would in effect take over Ata for the next 12 to 14 months, injecting some \$750,000 into it every month. This, on condition that the workers agree in advance to the early dismissal of several hundreds of their number. In the meantime, Ata would be split into its component parts, with each being run autonomously. By the end of the period of grace, departments showing profit would be put up for sale, while the others would be closed down and their employees fired.

The plan must still be approved by a committee of four ministers, including Mr. Nissim, but this appears to be a mere technicality.

Mr. Nissim has hastened to applaud it as a plan of genuine recovery, as distinct from a prescription for artificial respiration. But this self-serving recommendation is not very convincing. For what genuine grounds are there for believing that, in the next 12 to 14 months, Ata will be able to modernize its plant, make its textile competitive with those of the Far East, or improve the quality of its finished product sufficiently to find favour again with Marks and Spencer?

It takes an enormous leap of faith to answer these questions in the affirmative. And if the answer is that, yes, the prospects are indeed pleasing, there should be no need to stretch the experiment out over 12 to 14 months to prove the point - or, for that matter, to disprove it.

True, the plan will have a built-in time limit. By adopting it, the government will be promising - or threatening - to close down any Ata department that cannot make the grade. But this would still entail the dismissal of hundreds of workers. Rather than do that the government might again be tempted to put off the day of reckoning.

By making Ata its direct responsibility at this time the government is creating a dangerous precedent. For it will be signalling to any doddering firm with a vociferous enough labour contingent that it may count on the authorities to solve its problems for it.

The Ata workers, therefore, will also be carrying a heavy responsibility. For if they don't help make the scheme work with pronounced gains in productivity and profitability, they cannot expect the public to countenance a second subsidized round.

CHRISTMAS EVE

(Continued from Page One)

wandered about. Despite the prohibition of liquor in the square, the police arrested at least 25 people for drunkenness.

Despite the holiday decorations, restaurants and shops seemed to be doing poor business. One shopkeeper told *The Jerusalem Post* that despite the crowds on Christmas Eve, he does more business when crowds are sparser on Christmas Day.

The celebrations began at noon with the procession of the Latin Patriarch Giacomo Beltrini from his residence in Jerusalem to Manger Square, where he was greeted by Mayor Elias Freil and accompanied to the Basilica of the Nativity by clergy, choirs, police and Arab scouts, some of them playing bagpipes.

With a bright sun shining, the crowd jostled cheerfully to get a view of the patriarch, who was surrounded by a large crowd of clergy and dignitaries.

Photographers clung from perches and boys and young men hoisted themselves onto fences to get a better view. As the patriarch came into the square, preceded by a mounted police guard, a sign went up from the crowd and parents held their children up to see him.

With the end of the procession, many visitors remained to take part

in a Protestant service at Shepherd's Field in nearby Beit Sahur. In the evening, the Anglicans held a carol service in the courtyard of the Orthodox Monastery adjoining the basilica and masses and services in many languages were scheduled in the town's churches.

Throughout the day, the post office remained open to frank letters with a special stamp. Telephone service was available for visitors who wanted to call home from Bethlehem on the holiday, and the Government Press Office operated a centre for journalists.

At midnight, the traditional mass was held in St. Catherine's, the Roman Catholic parish church adjoining the basilica. For the hundreds who could not find room in the church, the mass was shown on a giant television screen in the square. The mass in Bethlehem was also shown on Israel TV and broadcast around the world.

Another Christmas programme from Israel which was due to be shown last night was made a few months ago by the visiting BBC Wales Choir. Filmed with shots of tourist and pilgrim sites throughout the country, it was scheduled to be shown on Christmas Eve in Britain and Western Europe, as well as on public television in the U.S.

PERES IN BETHLEHEM

(Continued from Page One)

Minister Haim Bar-Lev and joined later by Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. As soon as his remarks were concluded, the premier said quietly "There is no point in remaining on the stage" and began to mingle with the crowd.

He was warmly received by Beduin sheikhs in traditional garb who greeted him with "shalom," by the mayors of Beit Sahur, Beit Jalla and Jericho, and by scores of guests who came to shake his hand. The guests included representatives of the consular community in Jerusalem who are also responsible for the West Bank and officials and officers of the military government.

"I always noticed that non-Jewish prime ministers greeted their Jewish

citizens on their holidays," Peres added later when pressed by journalists to say whether his visit to Bethlehem should be seen as another overture to Jordan's King Hussein.

"This is a greeting to the entire Christian world. Hussein is a Moslem and you should not forget that I am still formally the minister of religious affairs," Peres said.

Peres's aides informed the civil administration late last week that he intended to be at the midnight mass in the Basilica of the Nativity.

Only when it was emphasized that his presence there (or on the stage of the choirs which was proposed as a compromise) would be interpreted as a change in the status quo regarding the holy places in the territories was it agreed that Peres would instead attend the traditional cocktail party in place of the defence minister.

The premier's visit here meant a large-scale security operation matched only by the visit 18 months ago of former U.S. president Jimmy Carter.

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CREDIT DUE

By MICHAEL A. HOFFMAN

FINANCE MINISTER Yitzhak Moda'i and his colleagues are struggling to carry out an overwhelming mandate: cutting the budget. They are also at pains to explain to the American administration why further pruning is well-nigh impossible and why Israel needs more "aid."

Our national energies are being spent as we try to decide where to swing the axe - defence, education, welfare, health. In doing so we are taking a path that others have charted for us. But we are heading in the wrong direction.

Consider for a moment two essential facts that have a fundamental bearing on our problem: Firstly, about \$100 billion are spent each year in the Nato countries to keep the Russian bear at bay; secondly, \$2.6 billion are being given in "aid" to Israel by the U.S., also to keep the Russians at bay.

In these figures there is a staggering imbalance as regards both dollar sums and conception. It is in that direction - righting the imbalance - that Mr. Moda'i should move when seeking solutions.

Put simply, the U.S. is overpaying in Europe because the Nato countries are not carrying their fair share of the burden, and underpaying in Israel.

The East-West superpower struggle has involved us in budget outlays and financial sacrifices that no state our size has been called upon to make. Those expenditures have been an annual agony for us from the very beginning.

In those early years, a core of a few hundred thousand Israelis were called upon to defend themselves against invading armies (while the West embargoed arms sales to Israel). They were asked to accept one million down-and-out refugees, many of them stateless. And they had to do it with an empty treasury - Britain had frozen our sterling assets.

Despite all this, Israel overcame all but its economic problems. And

never since has it ended a year out of the red.

AS THE COUNTRY developed a reputation for being the only dependable and democratic ally of the West in this region, providing price-less services to its friends, it went ever deeper into debt, spending increasing sums to upgrade its arms.

All the while, the West loaned us more and more money, not because it liked us particularly but because we were particularly dependable. And the more it loaned us, the more interest we had to pay on those loans. Had the superpowers not made the Middle East an area of confrontation, Israel would long ago have settled its problems with the Arabs and would have been economically sound. But that is water under the bridge.

WE PAY interest on our foreign debt (per capita, each of us owes over \$5,000) at rates set by the U.S. We buy their goods, technology and arms. And we are properly thankful for that American support and confidence.

But the U.S. does get something in return. It gets a good defence posture without committing large forces in the Middle East. And facing Russian military equipment and technicians on the ground are Israelis, not Americans.

In short, we are the first line of defence for the U.S. and Nato. Our presence inhibits the Soviet Union and protects the soft underbelly of Europe.

More than that, by turning over information on the battle performance of Soviet arms - available from no other source - we help the U.S. remain prepared.

That, together with the fact that the U.S. does not need to garrison the region, because we are doing it, is worth much more than we are receiving.

We have asked for nearly \$5 billion in aid for next year when we

should be requesting much more. In effect, we are giving the U.S. a huge discount. And in return, we are told that unless we take measures that mean throwing thousands out of work, cutting welfare to the needy, crippling our educational system and dropping our defences, there may be no substantial increase. Washington is bargaining hard but with the wrong people: the Europeans are the right address.

THE U.S. stations huge forces in Europe and still shells out \$100 billion: it stations no battle forces in Israel, and this year paid out \$2.6 billion. In view of what the Americans are spending in Europe, and what they get for it, the \$2.6 billion is the best buy they've had since they bought Alaska from the Russians. Why the imbalance? Chiefly, because of our own hypocritical, self-denigrating behaviour, which results in undervaluing our worth. We do not see our services as just that. We ask for "aid" when we should be presenting an "invoice." Our work on behalf of our allies is as much an export as is Saudi Arabian oil, and the product is just as vital to American interests.

OUR FOREIGN debt today stands at about \$23 billion. It grew to that monstrous proportion principally because of the interest and principal payments we have had to make on "aid" received. We are not alone. Argentina, Mexico and Brazil are among those in a similar crisis. But there is a huge difference. We had our debt forced on us by the East-West contretemps. They did not.

We hear rumblings from those debtor countries that some *modus vivendi* must be worked out. Former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger recommends realistic negotiations. Suggestions have been made that interest payments be halved, or waived, or even that a moratorium be declared on the principal owed by those nations. American banks fear that these debtor countries will even

Dry Bones



disown their debts. But what about Israel? Not so much as a murmur along these lines has been heard. On the contrary, we hear warnings about a credit crunch.

No doubt that part of our problem is that we are slaves to our history and its traumas. It's now fairly clear, for example, that the fearful, timid behaviour of U.S. Jewry during World War II made them powerless to help fellow Jews dying horribly in Nazi-held Europe. During the last 37 years, Israel's allies have not always done well by us: the arms embargoes, the failure of the Tri-Partite pledges, De Gaulle's boycott, American pressures during and after wars instigated by the Arabs, Western Europe's dismal voting record in the UN, Britain's refusal to sell us oil. Our record of trustworthiness toward them is better by far. We have nothing to feel ashamed about. Every cent we have received from the West we have earned.

We are small; our national independence is limited. Our foreign debts were incurred because of our disproportionate expenditures for equipment to be used against Russian equipment, which was supplied either free or at less than cost. We have contributed a wealth of military intelligence to the West, more than all NATO countries put together.

We are incapable of paying interest on our foreign debt, let alone the principal, without crippling our vital military defences and tearing ourselves apart. The huge brain drain during the 1966 depression hurt us and is about to happen again, this time because we are being squeezed.

A former State Department offi-

cial warned us during a recent visit that more foreign aid to Israel results in less aid for other countries. That should not intimidate us.

BEFORE WE can convince others, we must first change our own conceptions. "Aid" is not really the right word for the money we receive from Washington. No more than money spent in Nato countries is "aid." As long as the U.S. plays a major role in this area, it is not "aiding." Payment for services is what that \$2.6 billion really is. Paraphrase, rather.

The Europeans bargain well. Their skill in minimizing their expenditures and maximizing their revenues has resulted in the U.S. paying a disproportionate share of the Nato budget.

Unlike Europe, Israel finds it difficult, standing alone, to bring about a fair remedy. But certainly the elimination of our foreign debt by its absorption into the American military budget would be a first step in the right direction. That should be coupled with the establishment of a heritage fund, invested in U.S. government securities, whose annual interest would be allocated for our defence budget. Those two steps would begin to put right the many years of imbalanced expenditures by the U.S.

Throughout our history we have become accustomed to carrying heavy burdens - heavier than our weight would normally allow. We must stop. Our foreign debt is far too heavy for us to shoulder. Nor should we have to.

The writer is a Jerusalem journalist.

READERS' LETTERS

A RESPONSE TO DAOU KUTTAB

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*:
 Sir, - In his letter of December 13 Mr. Daoud Kuttub writes:

"Even the most headline Palestinian organizations don't equate the state of Israel with all Jews and Judaism... Palestinians are opposed to the Israeli State and the Zionist ideology which is behind the creation of Israel... the PLO charter which calls for a secular democratic state specifically mentions Jews..."

He also tells us that 80 per cent of the Palestinians have said that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

But Article 6 of the Palestine National Covenant states quite clearly that: "The Jews who normally resided in Palestine until the beginning of the Zionist invasion will be considered Palestinians."

The beginning of the "Zionist invasion" is of course the date of the Balfour Declaration of 1917. That means that all Jews who came after this date, including those who were born here since 1917, cannot be considered as "Palestinians" and will therefore be "aliens." I urge Mr. Kuttub to write another letter to *The Jerusalem Post* and state clearly what the PLO's Palestinian State intends to do with the more than three million Jews who live here today.

"If Palestinians had anything against Jews... why would the PLO appoint a Jew... in Geneva?"

It takes more than the appointment of one Jew to dispel the anti-Jewish record of Palestinian Arabs. Have the leaders of the Palestinians done anything to compensate for that record? Have they ever disowned the Great Mufti of Jerusalem who actively encouraged Hitler with his "Final Solution"? Have they ever uttered a word of protest against the treatment of Jews in Syria?

Did the Palestinian Arabs ever make a sympathetic mention of the expulsion of the 120,000 Iraqi Jews, deprived of all their possessions, or of the more than 500,000 Jews expelled from the Arab countries after 1948?

Many Jews, both in Israel and abroad, have shown a great deal of concern for the tragedy of the Palestinian refugees. Unfortunately, the Palestinian Arabs have not shown any similar concern.

Mr. Kuttub states that any Palestinian who is not an adherent of the PLO is a "quiescent." A quiescent is a person who actively helps the enemy. The enemy, of course, is no other than the Jews in Israel.

And not even Mr. Kuttub will deny that his PLO is responsible for countless crimes against Jews and Israelis alike. Hijackings of planes, and not only El Al but Swissair, Lufthansa, Air France, massacres at Ma'alot, at Ben-Gurion Airport, at Munich, massacres of unarmed civilians in buses, bombs in Jewish restaurants in France, bombs against synagogues in Europe... the list is too long and too sickening to complete.

The "Palestinian National Covenant" of the PLO has not been changed.

Mr. Kuttub wrote to *The Jerusalem Post*, a paper which fully endorses "the creation of Israel" which Mr. Kuttub states the PLO is opposed to. *The Jerusalem Post* printed his letter.

If there was a Palestinian State instead of Israel, could I write a similar letter to his *Jerusalem Times*, the English daily published in East Jerusalem in 1966?

If Mr. Kuttub's letter represents a

"reasonable and moderate" opinion heaven protect us from Palestinian "hard-liners."

Herzliya.

ERIC LUCAS

Sir, - I think it has been agreed that nobody can speak about the "Palestinians" unless he takes into consideration the 600,000 Palestinian Jews and their descendants.

Even Mr. Begin declared that he was a "Palestinian." So he was and so

am I and I have, like thousands of other Jews, a Palestinian passport to prove it (I wonder if Mr. Kuttub can produce one).

If Mr. Kuttub wants he can speak about or on behalf of Arabs, but anyone who has the presumption to speak on behalf of "the Palestinians" must take into consideration Palestinian Jews as well.

H. RALPH HELLINGER
 Secretary-General
 Palestine Jewish Organization,
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